

Standards for the Preparation of Digital Geospatial Metadata

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PREFACE

On April 11, 1994, President Clinton signed Executive Order 12906, "Coordinating Geographic Data Acquisition and Access: The National Spatial Data Infrastructure." This executive order instructs Federal agencies to use the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) "Content Standards for Digital Spatial Metadata," dated June 8, 1994, to document new digital geospatial data beginning in January 1995, and to provide these metadata to the public through the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Clearinghouse.

Metadata are data about the content, quality, condition, and other characteristics of the data. This standard specifies the information content of metadata for digital spatial data produced by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Mapping Division (NMD) and provides common terminology and definitions for NMD metadata. Parts 2 through 9 provide examples of metadata for specific NMD products based on this standard. The examples provide the approved text for describing NMD standard products and are compliant with the FGDC standard.

FGDC-compliant metadata are required for all newly collected or produced USGS digital geospatial data. Previously produced digital data will be documented according to the metadata standard and provided to the public through the NSDI Clearinghouse in accordance with Executive Order 12906. Metadata for each NMD product will be provided to the Sales Data Base (SDB) by the organizational unit producing the data.

This standard is maintained by the Mapping Applications Center of the NMD with input from the other Mapping Centers and the Senior Program Advisors for Data Production and Integration and for Data and Information Delivery. This document will be maintained by change notices to, or revision of, the affected part(s).

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